

NEW HELIOTHID MOTH FROM CENTRAL FLORIDA (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE)

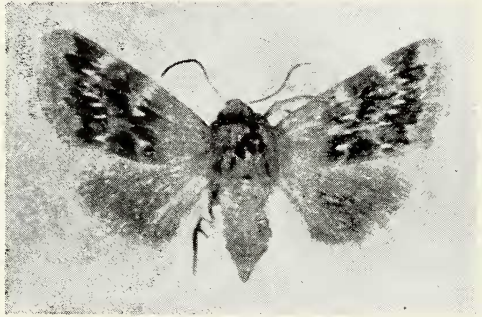
By ROWLAND R. McELVARE, Southern Pines, N. C.

Rhododipsa fulleri, sp. n.

Head and thorax clothed with coarse hair and a few scales; orange, shading to a lighter tone on the abdomen.

Tibiae spinose. Fore tibiae short and broad, having a very long terminal spine ("claw") on the inner side with one long and one short spine above; a long terminal spine on the outer side with three shorter spines above.

Fore wings golden orange overlaid with burnt sienna and white scaling. (In one female, the sienna has deepened to indian red.) Transverse lines irregular, white. Basal area golden orange shading outward into burnt sienna. Transverse anterior line discontinuous, curved outward, marked by a whitish patch at the costa and two white dashes below. Transverse posterior line bisinuate, with whitish patch at costa, below which is a series of short white lateral dashes creating a pointed



outline that gives the wing its distinctive pattern. Subterminal line clearly marked, irregularly dentate toward outer margin. Fringes orange. Due to exposure, the primaries tend to fade to a light orange, practically devoid of pattern.

Hind wings dorsally orange, lightly overlaid with burnt sienna, which in some specimens shades into crimson. Fringes orange. Underside orange, the central area of the wings overlaid with burnt sienna to an extent varying with the specimen. Fringes orange.

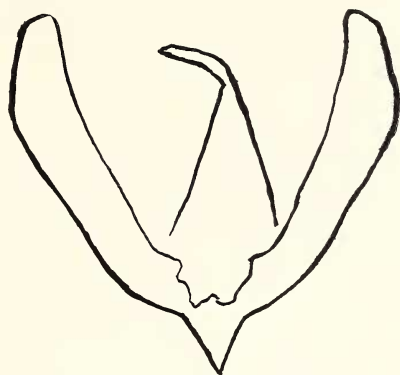
Wing expanse 18-22 mm.

Genitalia have the characteristic simplicity of the Heliothiinae. Close to *R. volupia* Fitch, they are more slender in both sexes. The harpes of *fulleri* are narrower and more rounded at the tip and the ovipositor is more slender and pointed than in *volupia*.

Comparative outlines of the harpes of both species are shown, drawn to the same scale.



R. fulleri



R. volupia

Holotype male: Oct. 22, 1960, Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, Fla. (Roger W. Pease, Jr.)

Paratypes: Male, Sept. 26, 1914, St. Petersburg, Fla. (R. Ludwig). Female, "Oct.," St. Petersburg, Fla. Female, Oct. 19, 1950, and male, Oct. 20, 1954, Cassadaga, Fla., at lights (Stanley V. Fuller). Female, Nov. 8, 1958, and male Nov. 4, 1959, Archbold Biol. Sta., at lights (S. W. Frost). 3 males, 2 females, Oct. 3-10, 1960, Archbold Biol. Sta. (R. W. Pease, Jr.). Female, Oct. 30, 1960, Archbold Biol. Sta. (R. R. McElvare). 3 females, Nov. 3-4, 1960, 2 miles east Lake Placid, Fla. (R. R. McElvare).

Holotype male placed in the U. S. National Museum collection, which has the type of *volupia*. Paratypes: St. Petersburg pair in U. S. National Museum collection for many years. Cassadaga specimens in collections S. V. Fuller, Cassadaga and Charles P. Kimball, Sarasota, Fla. Archbold Biol. Sta. specimens taken by S. W. Frost, in Penn. State. Univ. collection. Other specimens placed in collections of Archbold Biol. Sta., Peabody Museum of Yale, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., and British Museum (Natural History) which has the type of *R. volupides* Strand, now a synonym of *volupia*. Remainder in R. R. McElvare collection, Southern Pines, North Carolina.

With one exception at lights, the 1960 series from the Lake Placid region was taken on the flowers of *Actinospermum angustifolium* (Pursh) T. & G. The range of this flower is: Sandhills, pinelands and scrub, Coastal Plain, Fla., to Ga. and Miss. Spring, fall and locally all year. As the known specimens of *fulleri* are all from central Florida, its association with *Actinospermum* suggests a further search in October may extend its known range substantially.

Rhododipsa has been a western genus, ranging from Texas with *R. volupia* Fitch into California with *R. pallicincta* Sm. *Fulleri* now provides representation in the east. *Fulleri* is allied to *volupia* with which it shares the distinctive pointed edge of the t.p. line, but from which it also differs specifically. Its golden orange coloring is in sharp contrast to *volupia's* ruby wine red. It has a well-defined s.t. line either lacking or indistinct in *volupia*. In *volupia* also, the distance between the t.a. and t.p. line is extremely variable. As a result the median space ranges from about one third the width of the wing to the constriction resulting from the anastomosing of the transverse lines. In *fulleri*, the armature of the fore tibiae is slender and pointed; in *volupia*, particularly in the terminal spines, coarser and blunt. Similar contrasting slenderness in the genitalia has been noted above.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In addition to those noted above who loaned material, acknowledgment should be made to:

Richard Archbold, President of Archbold Expeditions, for his courtesy in making available facilities of the Archbold Biological Station.

Leonard J. Brass, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., botanist at the Archbold Biol. Sta., for advice on the local occurrence of *Actinospermum* which resulted in finding a new colony of *fulleri* east of Lake Placid village, some twelve miles from that at the Station.

Charles P. Kimball, Sarasota, Fla., for referring to me specimens taken by Fuller and Frost that evidenced the continued existence of this moth after a lapse of many years since the U.S.N.M. specimens were taken at St. Petersburg.

Roger W. Pease, Jr., New Britain, Conn., for field collecting and discovering the association of *fulleri* with *Actinospermum*.